

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 3 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 3 is stated to be dependent on a later claim 5 which is after claim 3.

Specification

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a

nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

The specification does not follow the above guidelines using the titles, Background of Invention, Summary of Invention, Brief Description of Drawings, Detailed Description of Invention, and claims. Those need to be provided.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ando et al (U.S. Patent Number 6185217).

Referring to claim 11, Ando et al teaches a method for initializing slave circuits which are connected in series with a master circuit in a ring structure (Figure 1, Column 2 Lines 61-64), where the master circuit successively sends a plurality of initialization data frames, which each contain a common initialization address stored in the slave circuits (Column 3 Lines 52-60) and an address which has been assigned by the master circuit for the respective slave circuit (Column 4 Lines 18-24), to the series connected slave circuits (Column 4 Lines 40-42, Lines 45-49)) until the master circuit itself receives an initialization data frame which it has sent (Column 4 Lines 56-64), where a slave circuit inhibits forwarding of a data frame to a slave circuit connected downstream of it until the slave circuit is initialized by a received initialization data frame (Column 4 Lines 45-

50), where a slave circuit, upon receiving an initialization data frame, stores the address contained in a data field of the initialization data frame as a future address for itself (Column 4 Lines 21-24).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance for claims 1-10:

The closest prior art found is the invention by Ando et al (U.S. Patent Number 6185217).

Referring to claim 1, Ando et al teach a slave circuit which can be connected in series with further slave circuits and a master circuit to form a ring structure (Figure 1, Column 2 Lines 61-64), having:

(a) a data transmission interface for processing data frames which are received from the master circuit, where the data transmission interface has an external data input for receiving the data frames from the master circuit (Figure 1, External Input side of Communication Controller "14") and a data output for sending data frames to the next series connected slave circuit (Figure 1, External output side of Communication Controller "14"), where each data frame contains at least a first data field for an address and a second data field for transmitting user data (Column 4, Lines 18-26);

Art Unit: 4134

(b) an address register for storing an address, where the address register has stored, prior to the initialization of the slave circuit by the master circuit, a predetermined initialization address which is provided for all the slave circuits jointly (column 3, 57-60);

(c) a comparator for comparing the address stored in the address register with an address received from the data transmission interface in a data frame (Figure 5, Lines 53-59), where the address register stores the data transmitted in the second data field of the data frame as a future address for the slave circuit if the address transmitted in the first data field of the data frame is identical to the predetermined initialization address (Column 4 Lines 18-23).

However, neither Ando et al nor any other prior art teach the following limitations "d" and "e" of this independent claim:

(d) an indicator register which indicates the initialization of the slave circuit if the address received by the data transmission interface in the slave circuit is identical to the predetermined initialization address; and having

(e) an inhibit logic unit which inhibits the data output of the data transmission interface until the indicator register indicates initialization of the slave circuit.

The claim 1 is therefore allowed.

The dependent claims 2 and 4-10 are also allowed accordingly. Claim 3 will be allowed if the claim objection has been corrected.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DINESH GOEL whose telephone number is (571)270-5201. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lun Yi Lao can be reached on 571-272-7671. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. G./
Examiner, Art Unit 4134

/LUN-YI LAO/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4134

